From: Phil Legard <legard@b...>
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Subject: Fallen Angels, Hell and Rambling! (was: No Subject)

Brian:

>Something I've always wondered: What happens when said entity is just not gonna come and you do have >to go ahead and burn the sigil? In theory, it usually banishes them for a few hundred-odd years from this
>plane. But only from your microcosm, it would seem, since obviously other folks elsewhere are >summoning the same fellow (or lady) with little to no difficulty.

The "Burning", or Curse, is a procedure intended to compell the spirit to come by torturing his seal. The seal seems to be directly linked to the spirit by some means so that the heating of the seal in a fire along with various stinking ingredients causes the spirit. It's really more a threat to send the spirit to Hell's deepest pit in the hope that the spirit will get it's act together and appear. Should the magician go ahead and curse the spirit to a stay in Hell then I agree that like you said, the spirit is only banished from one's personal universe, meaning that other magicians can still summon the spirit. Which brings us back to the objective/subjectie debate...

>Are some spirits just less likely to appear for certain people? And where do they go when you have to >forcefully banish them?

By 'forcefully banish them', do you mean cursing them to a spell in Hell, of do you mean making them leave by use of Divine Words and a Hexagram?

>You mentioned earlier that you believe that the Goetic spirits dwell in "Hell." What -- without hopefully >starting a massive flame war -- >does this mean for you? What does "selling one's soul" mean for you?

These are difficult questions, but here goes...
In my opinion, the Goetic spirits are for the most part dwellers among men, although they once inhabited Hell and can be sent back. Briefly, the 'demons' of The Goetia were led by Lucifer in the rebellion and thus cast out of Heaven and into Hell. Then for some reason, of which The Goetia isn't clear, Solomon summoned and imprisoned them all in a brass vessel. The Babylonians later opened the vessel (Pandora's Box?), releasing the devils who then became their gods - this is the reason why Astaroth and Amon are
considered devils in The Goetia. Some of the devils one day hope to return to their previous places in the angelic choirs, but as Weirius says, "this is not altogether credible" - although it does show that perhaps the demon is repentant and may be well disposed to the magician. (Of course, historically speaking, Solomon didn't of course write The Goetia and the list of 72 demons is compiled from various lists floating around in the medieval times and there's a marked Christian influence on the text, but the story above is crucial to the philosophy of the Goetic system.) As for what Hell means to me... I'm working with the Christian 'paradigm' (how I hate to use that word...), Hell to me is a place for the redemption of the soul, as well as the habitat of demonic entities. That sounds very simple, but it's what I currently believe. As for selling ones soul - a thousand books could and probably have been written on the subject - and even more on what the 'soul' actually is. I don't have the time or inclination to start trying to answer that. But if you sell your soul, does Lucifer actually 'own' your soul? Or is the actual selling of the soul an impossibility, but the act is punishable by an eternity in Hell? Either way, it doesn't sound like too much of a good idea. ;-)

>So then the question is begged, what sort of deals are "fair" in matters such as these?

Since the Curse would seem to suggest that the Goetic spirits can be influenced by the treatment of their sigils (in conjunction with certain words &c.) one of the most obvious 'rewards' would be keeping the spirit's sigil safe, or even having it engraved on some metal and even embelished with stones. Perhaps you could even try help the devil reclaim it's place in it's angelic choir.

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